

WE CLAIM:

1. A flush tool for medical catheters, comprising:

a first tube having a proximal end and a distal end;

a flush tube in fluid communication with the first tube;

a first valve attached to the proximal end of the first tube and in sealable fluid

5 communication with the first tube; and

a second valve attached to the distal end of the first tube and in sealable fluid communication with the first tube.

2. The flush tool of claim 1, wherein,

the first tube is configured to encompass a portion of a catheter and the first valve and second valve are each configured to sealably engage the catheter.

3. The flush tool of claim 1, wherein the first valve comprises a sealing member attached to the proximal end of the first tube and an actuating member slidably engaged with the sealing member which opens the sealing member when compressed with the sealing member.

4. The flush tool of claim 3, wherein the second valve comprises a sealing member attached to the distal end of the first tube and an actuating member slidably engaged with the sealing member which opens the sealing member when compressed with the sealing member.

5. The flush tool of claim 3, wherein the first valve further comprises a spring which biases the actuating member away from the sealing member, thereby biasing the first valve into a sealed condition.

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6. The flush tool of claim 4, wherein the second valve further comprises a spring which biases the actuating member away from the sealing member, thereby biasing the second valve into a sealed condition.

7. The flush tool of claim 4, wherein the first valve further comprises a first tab on the actuating member, and the second valve further comprises a second tab, whereby the first valve and the second valve may be simultaneously actuated by gripping both the first tab and the second tab.

8. The flush tool of claim 1, wherein the first valve comprises a sealing member attached to the proximal end of the first tube and an actuating member rotatably engaged with the sealing member and configured to seal the valve by rotating about the sealing member.

9. The flush tool of claim 1, wherein the second valve comprises a sealing member attached to the distal end of the first tube and an actuating member rotatably engaged with the sealing member and configured to seal the valve by rotating about the sealing member.

10. The flush tool of claim 1, wherein the first tube is formed of a transparent material, whereby items within the first tube may be visually inspected.

11. The flush tool of claim 1, wherein the flush tube is equipped with a means for attaching to a fluid source.

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12. A system for flushing a catheter, comprising:

a catheter having an auxiliary lumen extending from a distal end of the catheter to a side port in the catheter;

5 a flush tool having a proximal end and a distal end mounted on the catheter over the side port;

a first fluid-tight seal located near the proximal end of the flush tool and sealed about the catheter;

a second fluid-tight seal located near the distal end of the flush tool and sealed about the catheter; and

10 a flush port attached to the flush tool;

whereby introducing pressurized fluid into the flush port will evacuate air from the auxiliary lumen of the catheter.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the flush tool is removable from the catheter by unsealing the first fluid-tight seal and the second fluid-tight seal.

14. The system of claim 12, further comprising:

a guide wire extending through the auxiliary lumen.

15. The system of claim 12, further comprising:

an intraluminal device within the auxiliary lumen which impedes the flow of fluid therethrough.

16. The system of claim 12, further comprising:

a syringe connected to and in fluid communication with the flush port.

17. The system of claim 12, wherein the first fluid-tight seal and the second fluid-tight seal may be independently and repeatedly sealed and unsealed.

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18. The system of claim 12, whereby introducing vacuum pressure on the flush port will draw fluid into the auxiliary lumen at the distal end of the catheter through to the side port.

19. A method of flushing air from the guide wire lumen of a rapid exchange catheter wherein the guide wire lumen extends from a side access in the catheter to the distal end of the catheter, comprising the steps of:

placing a flush tool having a flush port over the catheter;

5 sealing the flush tool to the catheter distally from the side access;

sealing the flush tool to the catheter proximally from the side access; and

introducing pressurized fluid into the flush port.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

introducing pressurized fluid into the flush port prior to sealing the flush tool to the catheter to force air out of the flush tool.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the rapid exchange catheter includes a guide wire disposed throughout the guide wire lumen.

22. The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

disposing an introducer sheath within the flush tool prior to placing the flush tool over the catheter; and

5 removing the introducer sheath from the flush tool after placing the flush tool over the catheter.

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